

TWO MONTHLY MEETINGS

**as we progress toward
Great Glen Oadby and Wigston u3a (GGOWu3a)**

Wednesday 13 March 2024 at Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

JULIE KINNEAR (formerly EDE) on *MARILYN MONROE*

(CAUTION: Members may be delighted or horrified to learn that some nudity will be featured!)

Doors open at 10:00 am for refreshments and socialising. The meeting starts at 10:30 am

also

**Wednesday 27 March 2024 at the Liberal Club
82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA (*parking available*)**

MIKE STROUD - *Soups to Suspenders, the Story of the Symington Brothers*

Doors open at 1.30 pm for socialising. The meeting starts at 2:00 pm. Refreshments 3:00 pm.

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone,

As we approach our next membership year (starting as always on 1 April) it is good to see the combined Great Glen Oadby & Wigston u3a (our new 'working name' – GGOWu3a for short) starting to become a reality. For example, you will see that in this newsletter, email addresses for Committee members and Group Leaders are being changed to reflect this.

I was very pleased to welcome some O & W members to our February meeting, who had come to 'suss us out' while enjoying June Juett's excellent talk. Great Glen Committee members have similarly started to involve themselves in events at Wigston. The process of getting to know each other gathers pace. I hope we shall start to see the reciprocal involvement of our enlarged membership in more groups and meetings, for which further details are being added to our website.

It is planned that monthly meetings at both Great Glen and Wigston will continue for a further year, while next year's Committee works out the best arrangements for social events in the future. In the meantime, Great Glen members are very welcome to attend monthly speaker meetings at Wigston (last Wednesday afternoons in the month, 1:30 for 2:00 pm). As a temporary measure, I have already sent to members, by email, details of Wigston speaker meetings.

Best Wishes,

Robert Mansfield chair@ggowu3a.co.uk

0116 270 8284

Monthly Meeting Catering Rota

Please arrange with your group to provide three members for the meeting shown in the list below. The kitchen should be staffed from 9:45 to 10:30 am. It is not necessary to bring milk but please bring tea towels. Many thanks,

Di Richardson groupcoordinator@ggowu3a.co.uk

Advance notice of the catering rota for monthly meetings, second Wednesday in the month at the Great Glen Methodist Church Hall.

13 March	Art
10 April	Art Appreciation
8 May	Book Group Monday
12 June	Book Group Thursday

RED CROSS, FIRST AID WORKSHOP

There are a few places left on the course. If you would like to attend, please let me know by **14 March 2024** at the latest. Members will learn essential first aid skills, building the confidence and willingness to help someone in an emergency, using everyday objects. This may be of particular interest to those who lead outdoor groups.

The workshop was run recently at another Leicestershire u3a, receiving positive reviews.

Great Glen Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 28 March 2024 at 10:00 am

No charge, but a voluntary donation to the Red Cross may be made at the meeting. If you wish to attend, please contact me so that I can let the organiser know how many to expect.

Di Richardson groups.qqu3a@gmail.com 0116 288 9892

RENEWALS

By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received your renewal reminder either by email, or by post. If you have not received your email, please check your spam/junk folder first and if it is not there, give me a ring.

If we have no email address for you and you have not received a letter, please ring me on the number below. Many thanks to all who have already paid.

Janet Fanko membership@greatglenu3a.co.uk or telephone 0116 462 4679

GROUP NEWS (in alphabetical order)

ART x 2 Art group

First and third Thursdays in the month at 2.00 pm
in the Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF, Ruth Warner Room

Our March meetings are **7 and 21 March 2024**. The themes have yet to be decided.

Rachael Snashall art@ggowu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Third Monday in the month, 10:00 am - 12 noon
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

Our next meeting is **Monday 18 March 2024**. No knowledge or art ability is needed. Group members decide on the content and a wide interpretation of 'art' is encouraged. At our February meeting, we enjoyed revisiting Turner's *Temeraire* and were introduced to Andy Warhol's work. We are a non-expert group, welcoming to new members. Attend a meeting; you may be surprised at how accessible 'art' is!

June Juett

AA@ggowu3a.co.uk

BOOK GROUPS x 2**Book Group - Thursday**

Fourth Thursday in the month at 10:00 am
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF, Ruth Warner Room

Our next meeting is **28 March 2024 at 10:00 am**. Our book for review will be *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. New members are welcome in our inclusive group.

Patricia Mansfield

books2@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 270 8284

Book Group - Monday

Third Monday in the month at 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

The next meeting will be **18 March at 2:00 pm** in the Ruth Warner Room. We will be discussing *Busman's Honeymoon* by Dorothy M. Sayers. Our book for April is *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak.

Liz Adams

books@ggowu3a.co.uk

Classic Cars

First Wednesday in the month, 2:00 pm, Fox Pond Inn, LE2 4RG

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 6 March**. Dr. Ian Pogson on 'MG Cars from the inside – an engineers tale'. He was involved with the last MGs built in England at the Longbridge factory, and the transfer of manufacture to MG in China. Visitors are welcome.

Bob Smith

classiccars@ggowu3a.co.uk

CARD GAMES x 2**Duplicate Bridge**

Every Wednesday, Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF
1:45 pm for 2:00 pm prompt start until approx. 4:45 pm

If you enjoy bridge, come, and join us! If you do not know the duplicate system, we will teach you. We are a friendly (Non-League) **Social** bridge group playing Duplicate Bridge. We welcome new members.

Andy Tyler duplicatebridge@ggowu3a.co.uk

Mini Bridge

Every Tuesday morning, 9:45 am for a 10:00 am start
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

Anyone wishing to join our friendly group will be welcome. If you would like to try Minibridge please contact me via the U3A Minibridge website in advance, so that I can give you more details. Earlier experience playing Bridge or Minibridge is not needed. We are sure you will enjoy playing!

Terry Evans

mbridge@ggowu3a.co.uk

Croquet

First and Third Thursdays 10:00-11:30 am.
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

This is a small group activity with an occasional vacancy; our next meetings are **7 and 21 March**. If you have an interest in our activities, you may visit and enjoy a hot beverage with us while watching the action and learning the basics. Please contact me first.

Joan Bateson

0116 259 3191

DANCING x 2

English Country Dancing / ECD Tuesdays, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Burton Overy Village Hall

Two dancing highlights for the coming month, in addition to our **regular Tuesday afternoon sessions**. **10 March** brings the Annual Playford Tea Dance at the Bede House, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, where dancers are in period costume for terpsichorean delights from the 17th and 18th centuries! Then on **24 March** some ECD members will attend a Tea Dance run by the Burton Overy folk dance club, dancing to the internationally renowned dance-writer and Caller Trevor Monson, from Sheffield, and the playing of the talented accordion and flute duo, *The Falconers* from Herefordshire.

ECD is social dancing, conducted mostly at walking pace, where dancers weave patterns as they interact with one another. No earlier experience is needed as the dances are explained and walked through before setting them to music. You do not need to come with a partner; singles are welcome. Just wear light-weight flat shoes, or sandals, and comfortable clothing. Be prepared to join in and laugh - a lot! If you are interested to join us for fun and gentle exercise, physical and mental, in good company, please do get in touch.

Peter Meacock

ecd@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 279 3600

Line Dancing

Every Thursday morning, 10:30 am – 12.30 pm
Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

Line Dancing thrives in the village hall at Burton Overy every Thursday morning. We have country and western, modern, waltz and Latin American music, something to suit everyone. We have new dances and old dances, easy ones and some a little more difficult. We all need a challenge, especially one that is enjoyable. If you are interested in learning to line dance, or are returning after a break, do come along and join our friendly mixed ability group for a fun and unique way to exercise both your body and your mind.

Jackie Jordan & Maggie Ward

linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

EATING OUT x 3

Meet & Eat

Third Tuesday in the month
at the Italian Greyhound, Great Glen, LE8 9GF

We have a new venue, now meeting at *The Italian Greyhound* in Great Glen. **Next lunch is 19 March 2024**. Our earlier visits were considered successful with the staff going out of their way to give us great food and a warm welcome. Lunch is pre-ordered from a menu with a choice of two courses at £15 or three courses at £19 (plus discretionary tip) both including coffee. If you would like to join us, please contact:

Trevor Johnson

ggu3alunch@gmail.com (by March 10 for the March meeting)

Pub Lunches

After the U3a monthly meeting, venues vary
2nd Wednesday in the month.

We meet after the monthly meeting to enjoy a lunch together in a local pub. We have occasional vacancies and encourage you to call if interested.

Margaret Hudson

0116 271 5064

Sunday Lunches

Second Sunday in the month
1:00 pm at Glen Gorse Golf Club, LE2 4RF

The next lunch is Mothering Sunday, **March 10**, and we are meeting at **Glen Gorse Golf Club at 1:00 pm**. **Do let me know whether you will, or will not, be coming - 0116 279 1509 - no later than the Friday preceding the lunch**. I need to confirm numbers. If any gentlemen wish to join us, let me know – you will be welcome. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Judith Measom

0116 279 1509

Film Group

Second Monday in the month, 2:00 pm. Great Glen Methodist Hall LE8 9EF



Watch the website Events page and your email for details of our next presentation.

Everyone is welcome. Please contact me first if you are new to the group.

Peter Russell films@ggowu3a.co.uk 07759 831604

Garden Visits

Second Friday in the month, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm, various venues

Our next meetings are **8 March & 12 April**. We visit domestic gardens, parks, and similar locations for low-key outings, appreciating the importance of plants and socialising. Limited walking. No coach trips. Car sharing encouraged. We are a cheerful group with an interest in the many forms of 'garden'. We may visit the **Croci at the University of Leicester Botanic Garden, Glebe Road LE2 2LD** or **Knighton Park**, or the **Attenborough Arboretum, 5-23 Carisbrooke Road, LE2 3TQ**. Parking is available. Join our email list to receive information on the next venue and join an outing when it appeals to you. **The weather and the emergence of flora determine our venues!**

June Juett

gardening@ggowu3a.co.uk

HISTORY x 3

Family History

Fourth Wednesday, 10:00 am,
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9FE

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 27 March at 10:00 am**. Bill Maxted will talk on the role played by the town of Southampton in the Allies D-Day Landings in Northern France in June 1944. This will include a description of the impact on the civilian population at the time; Bill's family lived and worked in Southampton for the duration of WW2. New members are welcome.

Dennis Cook

familyhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

History Group

First Monday in the month, 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF



Next meeting is on **Monday 4 March 2024, 2:00 pm. £2.00**

This the second of our 'any topic you like' meetings and we have more talks on widely different subjects lined up.

Everyone welcome. Please contact me first if you are new to the group.

Peter Russell

history@ggowu3a.co.uk

07759 831604

Military History

First Wednesday in the month.
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

The next meeting is **6 March 2024**, for 10:00 am coffee, and **for the presentation at 10:30 am**. The subject is the '*Forgotten War*' in Korea 1950-1953. Apart from the Koreans, the war involved the USA, China, Russia, the UK, and many other countries involved in the United Nations force.

Alan Mawby

militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

Music x 2
Music group

First and Third Fridays in the month 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

Our next meetings are **1 and 15 March**. Melodies and hidden gems from a variety of genres await you! The music group formerly held in Wigston is joining with the group in Great Glen. Members from Oadby and Wigston are particularly encouraged to attend, as are new members. Whether you are a casual listener or devoted audiophile, the group welcomes all who love music. For more information, please make contact.

John Gough

0116 259 2430

Ukuleles

First and third Mondays 10:00 pm – 12 noon

Please note change of venue to Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen LE8 9EF

Our next meetings are **Monday, March 4 and 18**. We are a friendly group who love to play music together on our chosen instrument.... the Ukelele. We have a few spare instruments in case you want to try us without having to buy a uke. We are happy to include new members, even if you have not played before. So, if you fancy a challenge, why not join us? You will be very welcome.

Julie Franks

ukes@ggowu3a.co.uk

Photography Group

Third Wednesday in the month, 2.30 pm Fox Pond Inn, LE2 4RG

The next meeting of the photography group is **Wednesday 20 March** at 2:30 pm at the Fox Pond Inn. There is quite a bit of chat at our meetings. Both cameras and phones are used for our photographs, and we challenge ourselves with topics that provide for wide interpretation. If this might be something that appeals, why not sit in on a meeting? You may then choose to join this friendly group if you wish.



Peter Russell

photography@ggowu3a.co.uk

07759 831604.

Psychology

First Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am to 12 noon
Fox Pond Inn and Grill, Glen Rise, LE2 4RG

We are meeting on **Wednesday 6 March** to continue our discussion on **ADDICTION**. In February we had had a lively discussion on alcohol and other forms of addiction and the group wished to explore the subject further. The group has 16 regular members and has been active for over a year discussing topics such as memory, gas lighting, cults, and nature vs nurture. New members will be warmly welcomed. For further information please contact:

Ash Vaja

Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk

Quiz Group

Fourth Monday in the month at 2:30 pm. A Zoom Meeting

The next **Zoom** meeting is on **Monday 25 March at 2:30 pm**. If you would like to join us, please contact myself or Peter Russell who will give you the details.

Peter Russell/Rachael Snashall

zoomquiz@ggowu3a.co.uk

TABLE TENNIS x 2
Table Tennis - Monday

Mondays, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Roger Bettles University Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL

We plan on a **two-week break at Easter, 25 March-1 April, restarting on 8 March 2024**. We are a mixed ability group who have been playing for several years. More details can be found on the Great Glen U3A website or contact:

Janet Freestone

tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk

Table Tennis - Friday**Fridays 11:00 am-1:00 pm****Roger Bettles University Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL**

We are a mixed ability group who play for fun, exercise and flexing the grey matter! We are almost to capacity, although we would welcome a couple more players. For more information see the U3A website or contact:

Jay Bhikha

tabletennisFriday@ggowu3a.co.uk**Tabletop Games****Second and Fourth Thursdays in the month at 2:00 pm****Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF**

Members of the tabletop games group will be meeting on **14 & 28 March 2024** for afternoons of fun, friendship, and some brain exercise.

Canasta remains a firm favourite, but we also have a variety of board games, both number and word ones, and two of our members regularly play chess.

Please contact me if you have any queries or would like to join us for a taster session.

Helen Edwards tgames@ggowu3a.co.uk
0116 212 7547

WALKING GROUPS x 2**Village Strollers** *Local history/Heritage.* **Venues and dates are emailed to members**

The first visit of the year, in **March**, will be led by John and Margaret D. to Lutterworth - with some members planning to stay there for lunch. Invitations will be sent out at the end of February. Our **April stroll** will be around the village of Billesdon and led by Elizabeth and Marjorie. Our numbers are limited at times, so we cannot always accommodate all requests. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please contact me by email or phone.

Roger Edwards

villagestrollers@ggowu3a.co.uk

07809 678 252

Walking without Stiles**Third Thursday in the month, various venues**

The March walk will be on **Thursday 21 March 2024**, if circumstances allow.

If you would like to join us, please contact me by email, or on my mobile phone 07957 288 060, for further details, so we know whom to expect.

Elizabeth Cooke

walking@ggowu3a.co.uk**Writing for Pleasure****Fourth Tuesday at 2:15 pm GG Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 26 March at 2:15 pm** in the Ruth Warner Room. We are lively group with different interests, styles, and preferences. At our meetings we share what we have written, enjoy chatting about related matters and plan next steps. New members always welcome – please let me know in advance if you would like to experience a taster session.

Robert Mansfield

writing@ggowu3a.co.uk

Group Leaders and Committee members:

Please provide any updates necessary for the April newsletter, by 17 March 2024.

If the basic information in the preceding newsletter still applies, adding anything further is at your discretion. For group leaders formerly with Oadby and Wigston u3a, the format used in the March newsletter for those groups will be included, unless you provide other information.

The early cut off date is to allow time for printing newsletters for our amalgamated group; the print shop closes for a long Easter holiday. Thank you,

June Juett

newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk.

March Dates:

Mothering Sunday 10 March; Good Friday 29 March; Easter Monday 1 April, 2024

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

Charles Dickens

March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes, and a laugh in her voice.

Harold 'Hal' Glen Borland (1900 – 1978) American journalist, and naturalist

